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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/044,717	01/11/2002	Daniel M. Massey	FCI-2646/C3159	1263

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Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103

EXAMINER

NASRI, JAVAID H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 08/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/044,717

Applicant(s)

MASSEY ET AL.

Examiner

Javaid Nasri

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 January 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5,6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because:
 - a) The lettering is not standard lettering.
 - b) Lines are not of uniform thickness.

It should be understood that these are few examples only. Applicant is requested to check all the drawings and correct them appropriately.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - a) On page 4, Para [0015], line 5, change "if" to -- is --.
 - b) On page 6, Para [0025], line 3 says contact surface 41 (not shown in the Figures), but it is shown in figure 1.
 - c) On page 8, Para [0032], line 3, change "82" to -- 92 --. (See figure 3 and 82 is shown in figure 4 for something else).

It should be understood that these are few examples only. Applicant is requested to check the entire disclosure and correct the disclosure appropriately.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1-12 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- a) In claim 1, line 10, it is not clear why "latch" is in parenthesis [].
- b) In claim 1, line 5, insert "each of" between second "of" and "the".
- c) In claim 5, line 2, insert "of the" between "portions" and "side".
- d) In claim 9, line 4, change "column" to -- frame --.

It should be understood that these are few examples only. Applicant is requested to check all the claims and correct them appropriately.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1-12 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- a) Claim 1 recites the limitation "the connector" in line 15. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- b) Claim 1 recites the limitation "the undercut" in line 16. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- c) In claim 8, lines 6-8, the first latch (60) cannot engage with first landing (42) and the second latch (60') cannot engage with second landing (42'). Refer to figure 2.

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- d) Claim 17 recites the limitation "the transverse frame portions" in lines 2 and 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

It should be understood that these are few examples only. Applicant is requested to check all the claims and correct them appropriately.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gregory, II ('852, cited in IDS).

Gregory, II discloses inboard contact surfaces and a pair of opposing front and rear face contact surfaces, the front and rear face contact surfaces restricting movement of the connectors in a direction along a connector longitudinal axis (see figure 5), the inboard contact surfaces restricting movement of the connectors in a plane that is perpendicular to the connector longitudinal axis (see figure 5), the frame assembly being formed by a discrete pair of opposing and inter-latching (34, 40) frame members (12, 14).

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8. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gregory, II ('247, cited in IDS).

Gregory, II discloses inboard contact surfaces and a pair of opposing front and rear face contact surfaces, the front and rear face contact surfaces restricting movement of the connectors in a direction along a connector longitudinal axis (see col. 2, lines 46-60), the inboard contact surfaces restricting movement of the connectors in a plane that is perpendicular to the connector longitudinal axis (see figure 1), the frame assembly being formed by a discrete pair of opposing and inter-latching frame members (see col. 2, lines 46-60).

9. Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tso-Chin et al. Tso-Chin et al discloses inboard contact surfaces and a pair of opposing front and rear face contact surfaces, the front and rear face contact surfaces restricting movement of the connectors in a direction along a connector longitudinal axis (see col. 2, lines 46-60), the inboard contact surfaces restricting movement of the connectors in a plane that is perpendicular to the connector longitudinal axis (see figure 2), the frame assembly being formed by a discrete pair of opposing and inter-latching frame members (18, 20, see col. 2, lines 24-34), frame members (18, 20) are identical, undercuts forming the front and rear contact surfaces (see figure 2).

10. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chang et al. Chang et al discloses inboard contact surfaces and a pair of opposing front and rear face contact surfaces, the front and rear face contact surfaces restricting movement of the connectors in a direction along a connector longitudinal axis (see figure 1), the inboard contact surfaces restricting movement of the connectors in a plane that is perpendicular to the connector longitudinal axis (see figure 1), the frame assembly being formed by a discrete pair of opposing

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and inter-latching frame members (12, 38, 42), frame members (12) are identical, undercuts forming the front and rear contact surfaces (see figures 1 and 2), a pair of opposing transfer frame portions (24, 14, 22, see figure 1), a transfer frame inboard contact surfaces (24, 14, 22, see figure 1), a pair of opposing side frame portions (at 16), a side frame inboard contact surface (at 16A), a column (26, 28), a pair of opposing column inboard contact surfaces (28A), a latch assembly (38, 42), apertures for receiving the connectors (50, see figure 1), lip (58) of the connector, a latch member (38), a landing (42), protruding lip (40), first and second unitary frame member (see figure 1), the first and second frame members have same shape and capable of being produced in the same mold, mating surfaces.

Contact

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Javaid Nasri whose telephone number is 703 308 5876. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on 703 308 2710. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 308 7722 for regular communications and 703 308 7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308 0956.

Any correspondence to this action may be mailed to:

**Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450**

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

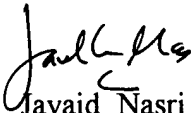
For additional information regarding this new address, which was effective May 1, 2003, see *Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 68 Fed. Reg. 14332 (March 25, 2003)*.

Or faxed to: 703-308-7722 or 308-7724 (informal or draft communications should be clearly labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Crystal Plaza 4, Fourth Floor (receptionist)

2201 South Clark Place, Arlington, Virginia


Javaid Nasri
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839

JN
jhn
July 30, 2003